

In the Claims

1-115. (Cancelled)

116. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:
selecting a set of instances from a set of data;
determining a number of related records in a set of related records of a table, wherein
each record of the set of related records is related to one instance of the set of instances;
[[and]]
comparing the number of related records and a number of instances in the set of instances prior
to generating a set of select statements to select the set of related records from the table;
and
if the comparing indicates that the number of instances is greater than the number of
related records,
generating the set of select statements to comprise one select statement to select the
set of related records from the table, wherein
the one select statement includes a clause to select a corresponding record for
each instance of a set comprising a maximum number of instances of
the set of instances,
the maximum number of instances is determined by a maximum number of
clauses in the one select statement, and
the one select statement is configured to
cause an update operation to be performed on a record in the table, if
the record already exists in the table, and
cause an insert operation to be performed to insert the record in the
table, if the record does not already exist in the table.

117. (Cancelled)

118. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim [[117]] 116 wherein
the generating is performed if the number of instances is substantially greater than the
number of related records, and

the number of instances is ~~much larger~~ substantially greater than the number of related records when a ratio between the number of instances and the number of related records is larger than a specified value.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118 wherein the specified value is 7.

120. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[117]]~~ 116 further comprising:
executing the one select statement;
after executing the one select statement, determining a set of respective operations to perform on the table, wherein
each respective operation of the set of respective operations affects a respective record in the table, and
each respective record corresponds to one instance of the set comprising the maximum number of instances; and
generating a set of SQL statements to perform each respective operation of the set of respective operations, wherein
the set of SQL statements does not join the table to another table.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 120 wherein each respective operation is one of
an update operation to update an existing record in the table and
an insert operation to insert a new record in the table.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 121 further comprising:
executing the set of SQL statements to provide the respective record in the table for each instance of the set comprising the maximum number of instances.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 121 wherein the generating the one select statement comprises
constructing a select clause to select a record from a plurality of records in the table,
wherein
the record has identifying data for one instance of the set comprising the

maximum number of instances; and
concatenating to the select clause a respective OR clause to select a
subsequent record for each subsequent instance of the set
comprising the maximum number of instances excluding the one
instance.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 121 wherein
the determining the respective operation for a first instance of the set comprising the maximum
number of instances comprises:
comparing respective data in each respective record of a plurality of records in the table
to identifying data for the first instance; and
if the identifying data for the first instance matches the respective data of a first
record of the plurality of records,
determining that the respective operation for the first instance is the update
operation;
and
if the identifying data for the first instance does not match the respective data of
any record of the plurality of records,
determining that the respective operation for the first instance is the insert
operation.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 124 wherein
the generating the set of SQL statements further comprises
if the respective operation is the update operation,
adding an update statement to the set of SQL statements to update the first record
using instance data from the first instance.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 124 wherein
the generating the set of SQL statements further comprises
if the respective operation is the insert operation,
adding an insert statement to the set of SQL statements to insert a second record
into the table using instance data from the first instance.

127. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[116]]~~ 118 wherein if the comparing indicates that the number of instances is not ~~much larger~~ substantially greater than the number of related records, generating the set of select statements to include the one select statement for each instance of the set of instances; executing each statement of the set of select statements prior to generating a subsequent select statement of the set of select statements.

128. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 116 wherein the determining the number of related records is performed without selecting the set of related records from the table.

129. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
selecting means for selecting a set of instances from a set of data;
determining means for determining a number of related records in a set of related records of a table, wherein
each record of the set of related records is related to one instance of the set of instances;
[[and]]
comparing means for comparing the number of related records and a number of instances in the set of instances prior to generating a set of select statements to select the set of related records from the table; and
generating means for generating the set of select statements to comprise one select statement to select the set of related records from the table if the comparing indicates that the number of instances is greater than the number of related records, wherein
the one select statement includes a clause to select a corresponding record for each instance of a set comprising a maximum number of instances of the set of instances,
the maximum number of instances is determined by a maximum number of clauses in the one select statement, and
the one select statement is configured to cause an update operation to be performed on a record in the table, if the

record already exists in the table, and
cause an insert operation to be performed to insert the record in the table, if
the record does not already exist in the table.

130. (Cancelled) :

131. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[130]]~~ 129 further comprising:
 executing means for executing the one select statement;
 second determining means for determining a set of respective operations to perform on the table
 after executing the one select statement, wherein
 each respective operation of the set of respective operations affects a respective record in
 the table, and
 each respective record corresponds to one instance of the set comprising the maximum
 number of instances; and
 second generating means for generating a set of SQL statements to perform each respective
 operation of the set of respective operations, wherein
 the set of SQL statements does not join the table to another table.

132. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 131 wherein
 each respective operation is one of
 an update operation to update an existing record in the table and
 an insert operation to insert a new record in the table.

133. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising:
 selecting instructions configured to select a set of instances from a set of data;
 determining instructions configured to determine a number of related records in a set of related
 records of a table, wherein
 each record of the set of related records is related to one instance of the set of instances;
[[and]]
 comparing instructions configured to compare the number of related records and a number of
 instances in the set of instances prior to generating a set of select statements to select the
 set of related records from the table; and

generating instructions configured to generate the set of select statements to comprise one select statement to select the set of related records from the table if the comparing indicates that the number of instances is greater than the number of related records, wherein the one select statement includes a clause to select a corresponding record for each instance of a set comprising a maximum number of instances of the set of instances, the maximum number of instances is determined by a maximum number of clauses in the one select statement, and the one select statement is configured to cause an update operation to be performed on a record in the table, if the record already exists in the table, and cause an insert operation to be performed to insert the record in the table, if the record does not already exist in the table.

134. (Cancelled)

135. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~[[134]]~~ 133 further comprising:

executing instructions configured to execute the one select statement;

second determining instructions configured to determine a set of respective operations to perform on the table after executing the one select statement, wherein

each respective operation of the set of respective operations affects a respective record in the table, and

each respective record corresponds to one instance of the set comprising the maximum number of instances; and

second generating instructions configured to generate a set of SQL statements to perform each respective operation of the set of respective operations, wherein

the set of SQL statements does not join the table to another table, and

each respective operation is one of

an update operation to update an existing record in the table and

an insert operation to insert a new record in the table.

136. (Cancelled)

137. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
 a processor to execute instructions; and
 a memory to store the instructions, wherein
 the memory is coupled to the processor, and
 the instructions comprise:
 selecting instructions configured to select a set of instances from a set of data;
 determining instructions configured to determine a number of related records in a
 set of related records of a table, wherein
 each record of the set of related records is related to one instance of the set
 of instances; **[[and]]**
 comparing instructions configured to compare the number of related records and a
 number of instances in the set of instances prior to generating a set of
 select statements to select the set of related records from the table; **and**
 generating instructions configured to generate the set of select statements to
 include one select statement to select the set of related records from
 the table if the comparing indicates that the number of instances is
 greater than the number of related records, wherein
 the one select statement includes a clause to select a corresponding
 record for each instance of a set comprising a maximum
 number of instances of the set of instances,
 the maximum number of instances is determined by a maximum
 number of clauses in the one select statement, and
 the one select statement is configured to
 cause an update operation to be performed on a record in the
 table, if the record already exists in the table, and
 cause an insert operation to be performed to insert the record
 in the table, if the record does not already exist in the
 table.

138. (Cancelled)

139. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim ~~[[138]]~~ 137 wherein the instructions further comprise:
executing instructions configured to execute the one select statement;
second determining instructions configured to determine a set of respective operations to perform on the table after executing the one select statement, wherein
each respective operation of the set of respective operations affects a respective record in the table, and
each respective record corresponds to one instance of the set comprising the maximum number of instances; and
second generating instructions configured to generate a set of SQL statements to perform each respective operation of the set of respective operations, wherein
the set of SQL statements does not join the table to another table.

140. **(Previously Presented)** The computer system of claim 139 wherein
each respective operation is one of
an update operation to update an existing record in the table and
an insert operation to insert a new record in the table.

141. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:
a selecting module configured to select a set of instances from a set of data;
a determining module configured to determine a number of related records in a set of related records of a table, wherein
each record of the set of related records is related to one instance of the set of instances;
[[and]]
a comparing module configured to compare the number of related records and a number of instances in the set of instances prior to generating a set of select statements to select the set of related records from the table; **and**
a generating module configured to generate the set of select statements to comprise one select statement to select the set of related records from the table if the comparing indicates that the number of instances is greater than the number of related records, wherein
the one select statement includes a clause to select a corresponding record for each

instance of a set comprising a maximum number of instances of the set of instances,
the maximum number of instances is determined by a maximum number of clauses in the one select statement, and
the one select statement is configured to
cause an update operation to be performed on a record in the table, if the record already exists in the table, and
cause an insert operation to be performed to insert the record in the table, if the record does not already exist in the table.

142. (Cancelled)

143. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[142]] 141 further comprising:
 an executing module configured to execute the one select statement;
 a second determining module configured to determine a set of respective operations to perform on the table after executing the one select statement, wherein
 each respective operation of the set of respective operations affects a respective record in the table, and
 each respective record corresponds to one instance of the set comprising the maximum number of instances; and
 a second generating module configured to generate a set of SQL statements to perform each respective operation of the set of respective operations, wherein
 the set of SQL statements does not join the table to another table.

144. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 143 wherein
 each respective operation is one of
 an update operation to update an existing record in the table and
 an insert operation to insert a new record in the table.